



# Climate Solutions

practical solutions to global warming

September 9, 2005

Alan Burns  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Attn: Communications - DM-7  
P.O. Box 14428  
Portland, OR 97293-4428

Dear Mr. Burns:

I am writing on behalf of Climate Solutions to provide public comment on how the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) should proceed in regards to management and operation of our region's high voltage transmission system.

Climate Solutions is a Northwest based non-profit dedicated to finding common sense solutions to global warming. A focus of our organization is to promote policies that will make our region a global leader in clean energy technology. Smart energy, the convergence of digital information technology and electric power, has been identified as a key opportunity to advance this goal.

*Grid West/TIG Decision Point 2* is a tremendous chance for BPA to help create an environment in which the smart energy industry can flourish. The "one utility" vision being proposed by BPA provides immense potential for the development of a modern Northwest power grid that is more reliable, clean, and economical. Many new smart energy devices and systems are emerging that can take pressure off overloaded grid infrastructure and power costs while providing other significant benefits. However, policies must be in place that will enable us to utilize these new technologies.

I am concerned that the Transmission Improvement Group (TIG) has not yet addressed many of the issues that are fundamental to the development of a smart grid, which would make full use of smart energy technology. It is crucial that TIG demonstrates a willingness to consider all available options when responding to the transmission and power needs of Northwest consumers. Without more information on how TIG will resolve this issue, it is difficult to recommend proceeding with the TIG alternative.

Grid West has incorporated features into their structure that would enable consideration of non-wires alternatives to the traditional approaches used when planning transmission infrastructure improvements. This should allow smart energy technologies to participate in solving the Northwest's transmission problems. Although improvement of Grid West policy is necessary, it is encouraging that Grid West has made an effort in this area.